

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 001376

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FOL RPT STATE 1376 ACTION NAIROBI MASERU KIGALI GABORONE
MBABANE BLANTYRE CAIRO TRIPOLI MONROVIA RABAT TUNIS ADDIS ABABA
PORT LOUIS MOUAKCHOTT BANGUI LOME NIAMEY OUAGADOUGOU NDJAMENA
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QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 001376

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD
TO HEAD OF STATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

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DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: (OR APPROPRIATE SALUTATION)

DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD IN AFRICAN AND WORLD AFFAIRS, AND ON THE EVE OF THE OAU HEADS OF STATE CONFERENCE, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONVEY TO YOU SOME OF MY VIEWS ON THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM. I AM AWARE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA, AND I WOULD WELCOME ANY IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS YOU WOULD CARE TO OFFER ME IN RETURN.

THE OBJECTIVE OF U.S. POLICY IN ANGOLA HAS BEEN TO COUNTER EFFORTS BY THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA TO IMPOSE A MINORITY FACTION (THE MPLA) AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. OUR VIEW HAS BEEN THAT ONLY A GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF ALL

FACTIONS CAN LEGITIMATELY CLAIM TO REPRESENT THAT COUNTRY. LIKE YOUR COUNTRY

WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM RECOGNIZING ANY FACTION AS THE GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE SEVERAL TIMES CALLED FOR AN END TO ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH AN ENDEAVOR.

THE UNITED STATES CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THIS SOVIET ATTEMPT TO EXERCISE DOMINATION 8,000 MILES FROM ITS OWN BORDERS IN AN AREA OUTSIDE ITS TRADITIONAL SECURITY AREA.

THEREFORE THE U.S. IS DETERMINED TO PERSIST IN ITS RESISTANCE TO THIS EXTENSION OF SOVIET POWER ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. OUR FIRM POLICY HAS CONTINUOUSLY EMPHASIZED OUR BELIEF THAT GREAT POWER RIVALRIES SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM AFRICA.

I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE SEE THE MPLA AS ONE OF THREE LEGITIMATE FACTIONS IN ANGOLA. WE DO NOT SEEK THE DESTRUCTION OR THE DEFEAT OF THE MPLA. BUT WE DO BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ASSUME TOTAL POWER BY FORCE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN ARMS. WE HOPE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY WILL EMERGE, AND WE STAND READY TO

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PROVIDE RECONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE WHEN THAT HAPPENS.

ON THE SOUTH AFRICA QUESTION, I WISH TO STATE THAT THE U.S. IN NO WAY SOUGHT OR ENCOURAGED THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN ANGOLA NOR WAS IT CONSULTED. THEY ACTED NO DOUBT IN DEFENSE OF THEIR NATIONAL INTEREST AS THEY SEE IT. WE DID NOT INITIATE ANY CONSULTATION WITH THEM AND HAVE MAINTAINED OUR MILITARY

EMBARGO ON ALL ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER THEIR PRESENCE AND DESIRE IT TO END QUICKLY, JUST AS WE DESIRE THAT THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION CEASE. WE WILL USE ALL OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN THE CONTEXT OF A WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES.

THE UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT MEETING ON ANGOLA CAN CLEARLY BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN PROMOTING AN EARLY END TO THE FIGHTING AND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CIVIL WAR. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE OAU WILL INSIST UPON A PROMPT END TO ALL FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, ARRANGE A STANDSTILL CEASEFIRE BETWEEN THE FORCES, AND BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE ANGOLAN GROUPS. MY GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT SUCH AN INITIATIVE AND COOPERATE WITH IT, PROVIDED

OTHER DISTANT POWERS DO SO AS WELL. WE WOULD ALSO IN THAT CASE URGE SOUTH AFRICA TO END ITS INVOLVEMENT. WE CANNOT, HOWEVER, STAND IDLY BY IF THE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION PERSISTS.

I WOULD BE PLEASED TO LEARN YOUR REACTION TO THE FOREGOING AND I HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS END AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. SINCERELY GERALD R. FORD . UNQUOTE .

FRENCH TEXT BEING SENT SEPTEL TO FRANCOPHONE ADDRESSEES EXCEPT RABAT AND TUNIS. NGERSOLL

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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